

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05254 271503Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----097234 271504Z /53
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5254

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CD, US, SA
SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: STATE 174353

1. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS, WE BELIEVE THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY IN A MULTILATERAL EFFORT TO SHORE UP THE CHADIAN REGIME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD HAS TRANSMITTED A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE SAG, BUT THE SAUDIS HAVE NOT REPLIED, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY COULD DO THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE. IN THEIR VIEW THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD IS WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE AND THEY SEE LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD DECISIVELY PUT DOWN THE REBELS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS NORTHWEST TERRAIN AS LONG AS THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE REBELS.

2. THE SAG SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IS A NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD AND THE REBELS GUARANTEEING THE LATTER CERTAIN AUTONOMOUS RIGHTS IN THEIR HOME TERRITORY. THE SAG WOULD PROBABLY BE MOST RECEIPTIVE TO AN APPROACH THAT STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD SO THAT IT WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO NEGOTIATE AN
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ARRANGEMENT WITH THE REBELS.
WEST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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